

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SPECIFYING THE BOOT ORDER**  
**OF MASS STORAGE DEVICES IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM**

**Abstract of the Invention**

Methods for specifying a boot order for two or more mass storage devices within a computer system are provided. According to one method, a single user interface menu is provided through which the boot order for the computer system may be specified by arranging in order identifiers corresponding to each of the mass storage devices. An initial program load of the computer is then attempted from the mass storage devices in the order specified utilizing the single user interface menu. In another operational mode, a boot order may be specified for two or more mass storage devices within a computer system by determining for each mass storage device type whether more than one mass storage device exists within the computer system. For each mass storage device type for which more than one mass storage device exists, a device type menu is provided including menu items corresponding to each of the mass storage devices of the device type. The menu items of each device type menu are orderable to specify the boot order for devices of the device type. A boot order menu is also provided including one or more menu items comprising either a menu item corresponding to a mass storage device type wherein more than one device of the device type exists or menu item corresponding to the mass storage device for each of the mass storage device types for which only one device of the type exists. The menu items of the boot order menu are orderable to specify the boot order for the computer system.